

*Tickle it with a plough, and it laughs with a harvest.*

## THE BATTLEFORD DISTRICT.

Mr. S. A. Macfarlane, who has been in the North-West for many years, was in Winnipeg on his return to Battleford from the east. Speaking to a *Free Press* reporter he stated that the indications were that immigration was about to largely set in towards the Battle River and North Saskatchewan Valleys. He spoke hopefully of the Battle River section. "Why," he said, "there is no finer country in the world, and no better crops are raised in any section of the continent than in that part of the North-West, of which Battleford is the centre." He knew people who had gone there without a dollar and in a short time had become very well off indeed, entirely through mixed farming. The whole secret of success in that country was possessed by any practical farmer."

Speaking of the fertility of the soil, he said "he knew farmers there who for five successive years had an average of over fifty bushels of oats to the acre. Last fall wheat averaged about thirty, and oats from fifty to sixty. Roots and vegetables were always a good crop. As to the beef-producing capabilities of the country, it was only necessary to say that two-year old steers, fed altogether on the native grasses, dressed eight hundred pounds right along."

There seemed to be an impression that settlers going to the Saskatchewan district would of necessity require to take their stock with them, at great expense and trouble. This was a mistake. Cattle had been raised around Battleford for fifteen years, and domesticated animals of an excellent class could be obtained at reasonable prices by new settlers coming in. Horses for farm or other purposes can be purchased right there. In fact the most extensive horse-raising establishment on the Saskatchewan is within twenty-five miles of Battleford, where animals of a most superior and suitable class are bred, and are to be obtained at a moderate cost. Thus it will be seen that people going there to settle will not have to encounter any of the inconveniences and hardships often experienced by the earlier settlers.

The country is park-like, with alternate patches of grove and